



## A History of Provident Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland

ROBERT L. JACKSON, M.D., F.A.C.S. AND EMERSON C. WALDEN, M.D., F.A.C.S.

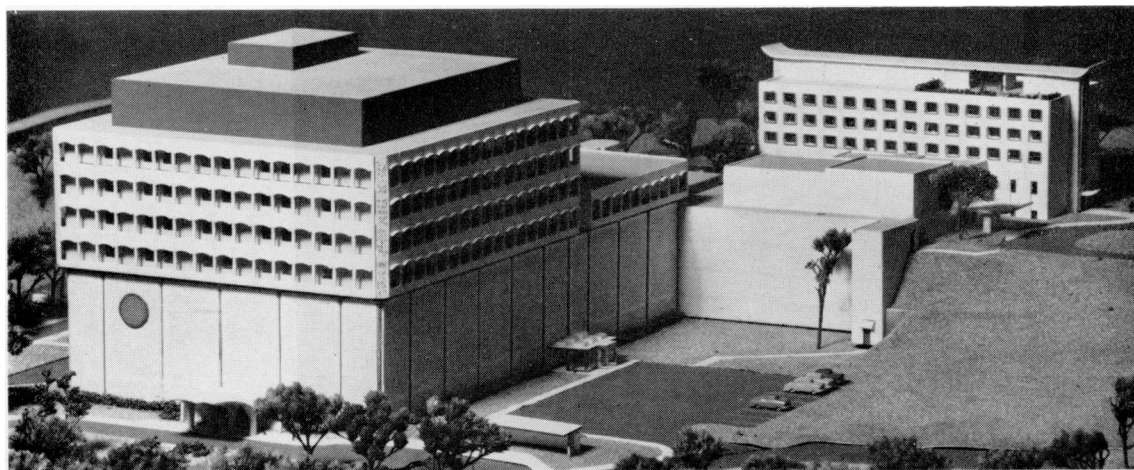
**P**ROVIDENT HOSPITAL was established June 13, 1894 with 10 beds in a small private dwelling at 419 Orchard Street in the northwest section of the city. The founders of the hospital were largely Negro physicians practicing in Baltimore, who acted in a dual capacity as members of the Board of Trustees and as members of the hospital's medical staff.

The aims and purposes of the hospital are stated as follows in the annual report of 1897:

The hospital is intended to fulfill three purposes: to be an institution where people of color may be attended by physicians of their own race; secondly—the colored physicians may have an opportunity to develop themselves along the lines of specialty, thereby become proficient in them, and thirdly—that there may be a well organized training school for nurses where young ladies may obtain instruction pertaining to their calling.

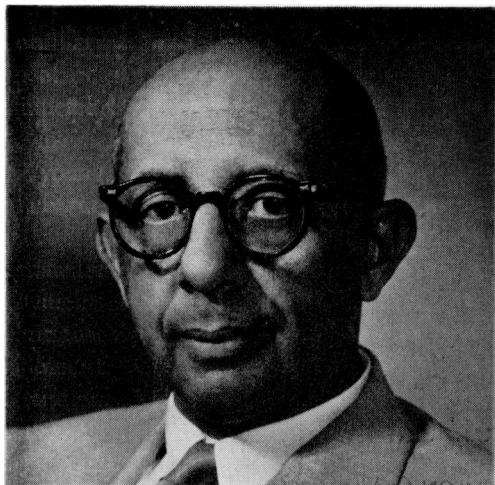
After 18 months of growth and development the hospital moved to a much larger private dwelling located at 413 W. Biddle Street. Subsequently, an adjacent building was added. The structures were connected and partially renovated because the funds raised for reconstruction were insufficient to provide necessary interior improvements and equipment needed in every phase of the fledgling hospital's operation. During these early years the income from patients was quite small. Little money was received from city and state government. The city discontinued its contribution after several years; the state, however, continued its allocation.

Whatever may have been the inadequacies of management and medical service, the indisputable fact remains that for more than a decade, this small group of pioneers held to the aim of providing



THE NEW PROVIDENT HOSPITAL

Architects' drawing of buildings now under construction.



R. L. JACKSON, M.D.



EMERSON C. WALDEN, M.D.

proper hospital care for Negroes, and gave generously of their meager funds to keep the hospital open. The trustees were assisted in this work by an able group of women who were called the Lady Board of Managers. An institution so poverty-stricken met with overwhelming difficulties. So it was that interested laymen tried to bring about the cooperation of all of the city's physicians to gain their support of a new program for adequate hospitalization. This was about 1914.

The period from that time until the hospital moved to the Division Street site was punctuated by a number of attempts at renovation and reconstruction, all of which were unsuccessful. The medical staff and the board of directors, under President John Rich, refused to accept failure. No one at all familiar with this phase of the hospital's existence could fail to recall the self-sacrifice of Drs. William T. Carr, Jr., D. Grant Scott, Harry F. Brown and Mr. H. Grafton Browne. Without the work of these men during their respective terms as superintendents of the hospital, the doom of the hospital might have been sealed.

In 1920, the Union Memorial Hospital, then known as the Union Protestant Infirmary, was located at 1514 Division Street, and was planning to move. The property was offered to the trustees of the Provident Hospital for the sum of \$75,000. Already severely limited in sources of revenue, the trustees and a group of leading white citizens presented their cause to the public with no great financial success. Another group was formed which contracted to purchase the property for a hospital to be known as the Victory Hospital. A campaign

was conducted and \$25,000 was raised by the Victory Hospital Committee under Mr. Francis King Carey and Miss Anita Williams. Efforts made to consolidate the Victory Hospital forces with those of the Provident did not work out. The \$25,000 was placed as a deposit on the site at Division Street. The remaining \$50,000 was never raised and the Union Memorial Trustees retained the property.

The affairs on Biddle Street worsened, and by 1925 only a few patients remained in the building. Two loyal graduate nurses performed their own professional duties and acted in any other capacity that was required to keep the institution going.

Dr. William T. Carr acted as superintendent. He was the remaining member of the original staff. It was his brave effort that kept the hospital from closing and made possible the fresh approach which led to the establishment of a firm footing for the present hospital organizational structure. During the summer of 1925, he sought the services of seven laymen to assist in the reorganization. So discouraging was the situation that the trustees, newly elected, felt like quitting at the start but, knowing the need for a well-established hospital in that part of the city and encouraged by the response from the community, they fell to the task of putting the old institution on a sound organizational and operational basis.

At this time the question rose as to whether the hospital should remain where it was or whether plans should be made to create a larger and better institution elsewhere. During the study of the question, thoughts returned to the proposed Vic-



Provident Hospital and Free Dispensary, 413-415 West Biddle Street—1915.

tory Hospital site, but it was the consensus that the Biddle Street operation had to be reorganized and emphasis placed on up-grading the standards of both hospital and professional services. The old building was thoroughly renovated and equipped. Provision was made for 35 patients. Financial help was obtained from the city of Baltimore for the care of city patients (\$3.50 a week for each "free" patient who was a resident). The Community Fund of Baltimore began an annual grant to the hospital after assurance that certain changes in the hospital's organizational structure were being made, and that city regulations were being complied with. A superintendent of nurses was employed along with a night supervisor and two ward duty nurses.

Dr. Carr advised the board that if he were given a staff of interested young physicians, he could lay the ground-work for the professional future of the hospital. Drs. Bernard Harris, Robert L. Jackson, Wesley Gaines, W. Berkley Butler, John R. Coasey and W. F. Noville joined Dr. Carr in this effort. Dr. Herbert Wilkerson of the West Baltimore General Hospital (now the Lutheran Hospital of Maryland), gave generously of his time to

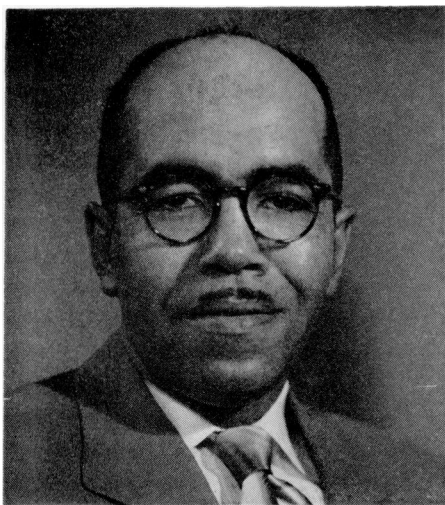


A group of nurses of the earlier days.

start the post-graduate training of these young doctors. From then on, the hospital began to receive assistance from all groups in the city. Mr. Henry Hale of the board of trustees of the hospital, appealed to Mr. Alfred R. Riggs of the board of trustees of the Union Memorial Hospital, regarding the property at 1514 Division Street. The Provident trustees had, by this time, developed a program which was submitted to Mr. Riggs for his consideration. The program was:

1. That the old U. P. I. Building on Division Street be deeded to the Board of Trustees of Provident Hospital without consideration of additional money;
2. The Board of Directors of Provident Hospital agree that the U.P.I. Building, if so deeded, be remodeled and used solely for hospital purposes;
3. That the Board of Directors of Provident Hospital take over the actual management of the new hospital with the cooperation of an advisory board to be appointed;
4. That the advisory board selected consist of at least 15 ladies and gentlemen, with the understanding that the said advisory board would organize itself and hold its meetings at its convenience;
5. That it is the Hospital's intention to place a mortgage on the Division Street property in order to raise funds for renovation and equipment;
6. That when said property be renovated and equipped for hospital purposes, the board of directors proposed to arrange for a city wide campaign to raise funds to pay off the mortgage;
7. That the board of directors with the assistance of the advisory board would secure the maximum aid from the city, Community Fund and from such other sources that may be available.

The trustees of the Provident Hospital felt that if the plan were accepted by the trustees of the



JAMES D. CARR, M.D.



MR. J. L. LINBERRY

Victory Hospital Committee, it would be satisfactory with the people who contributed \$25,000 originally to start a hospital in the U.P.I. Building, Mr. Riggs and Dr. William A. Fisher of the Union Memorial staff attended a meeting of that hospital's board to discuss the proposed program. They were quite satisfied with the plan and held a joint meeting of the Victory and Provident Hospital organizations.

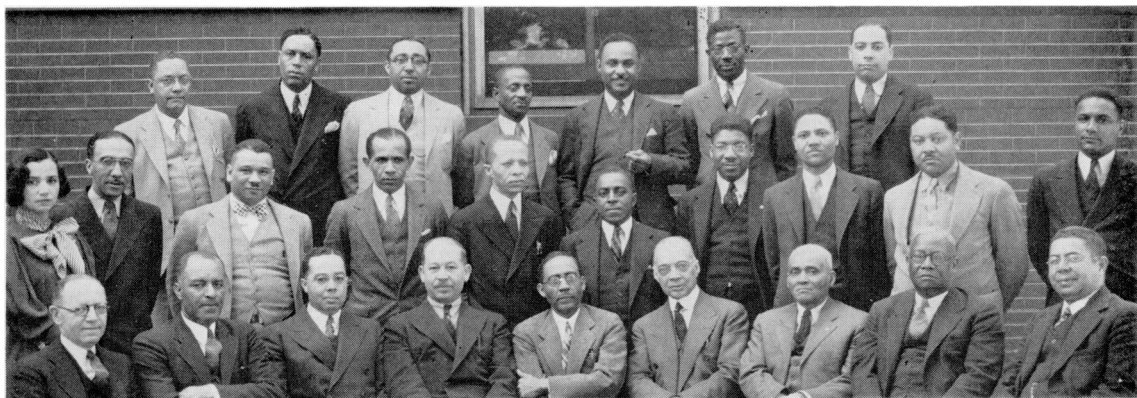
Dr. John M. T. Finney, Sr., distinguished surgeon, teacher and humanitarian, who had for a long time held the belief that Baltimore should have a hospital where Negroes could care for and teach their own, felt that now was the opportune time to translate beliefs into deeds. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Riggs and Dr. Fisher, who felt that the Provident Board was sincere in its efforts, Dr. Finney and the members of the Victory Hospital committee agreed to the plan which had been submitted to them. The following conditions were to be met: the care of patients be at all times the first consideration; the medical and surgical work of the hospital rest in the hands of a medical board composed as follows: two representatives from the medical faculty of the Johns Hopkins University, two representatives appointed by the faculty of the University of Maryland, and two graduate nurses whom the medical board would select. The professional work of the institution was to be supervised by the medical board with the assistance of consultants who would be appointed from time to time. This practice was to continue until such time as, in their judgment,

they felt that a sufficient number of Negro physicians were capable of taking over the medical administration of the hospital. The trustees of the Provident organization accepted these terms.

Dr. A. J. Lomas, superintendent of the University of Maryland Hospital, agreed to act as consultant superintendent of the newly formed hospital. Mr. Albert I. Cassell, architect, was selected to develop plans to remodel the facilities at 1514 Division Street, and was advanced \$500 by the then president of the board, Mr. C. C. Fitzgerald, to begin work.

In December 1927, a most successful fund-raising campaign was held in which \$425,000 were raised, either in cash or in subscriptions, payable over a period of three years. Baltimore's Negro citizens raised \$165,000; its white citizens, \$149,000. Gifts from additional sources amounted to \$100,000. While waiting to collect monies on pledges, the board was authorized to borrow \$165,000 from the Provident Savings Bank to complete the work on the main building and to purchase eight houses to the north of the main building. The Rockefeller Foundation and the Rosenwald Fund each gave \$25,000 toward the building program, and an additional \$25,000, from each, was payable over a five year period for maintenance.

At the first campaign meeting at the Emerson Hotel, there was one question in the minds of those assembled and that was whether the races could work together harmoniously in southern Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Herbert Wilkerson who



THE PROVIDENT STAFF, ca. 1937

Front row, l. to r. H. Young, B.S.\*, Louis A. Johnson, M.D.\*, Frank A. Saunders, M.D.\*, T. J. Woolridge, Sr., Edward Wheatley, M.D.\*, R. Garland Chissell, M.D.\*, H. White, M.D.\*, W. F. Norville, M.D.\*, H. Brown, M.D.

Second row. N. Louise Young, M.D., Leroy Berry, M.D., Charles T. Woodland, M.D.\*, Frederick K. Adams, M.D., W. Atwell Jones, M.D., Carson Johnson, M.D.\*, Theodore Phfeiffer, M.D., William H. Watts, M.D., Calvin B. LeCompte, M.D., Sanders Russell, M.D.\*.

Third row. William F. Cargill, M.D.\*, L. Barksdale, M.D., unidentified, Bernard Harris, Sr., M.D., I. Bradshaw Higgins, M.D., C. Rodgers, M.D.

\* Deceased.

had worked for two years already, training Negro physicians, took the floor and convinced those assembled that the plan was workable. Dr. Wilkerson's statement of the splendid cooperation he had received was accepted. He spoke of the intense desire of the Negro physicians for training.

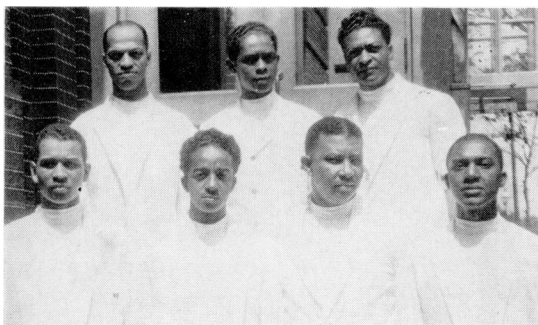
Under Mr. Cassell's direction, the building and houses were completely remodeled and completely furnished with new equipment.

On October 15, 1928, the doors of the Provident Hospital and Free Dispensary, at 1514 Division Street, were opened to the public for the reception of patients, with Dr. William T. Carr, as superintendent, Mr. R. Jefferson Cross, business manager and Miss Bettye Jenkins, (first employed

as night supervisor), superintendent of nurses. She had received intensive training under Miss Maude B. Gardner of the Women's Hospital of Maryland and Mrs. S. W. Lilly of the Presbyterian ENT Hospital. It was under Miss Jenkins that the Provident Hospital School of Nursing became accredited.

The administrative committee of the Board of Trustees spent long hours under the tutelage of Dr. Lomas preparing for the business affairs and the general management of the new hospital. Dr. Lomas arranged for the training of the business manager, bookkeeper, laboratory technician, dietitian and other ancillary personnel at the Hospital of the University of Maryland.

With the entire country in the throes of an economic depression, the hospital completed its first 15 months of operation in 1929 with a



INTERNS, 1929-30

Front row, l. to r. Charles T. Woodland, M.D.\*, Charles de Casseras, M.D.\*, John W. Edwards, M.D.\*, D. McKinley Reevesby, M.D.

Back row. W. C. Allen, M.D., R. Neblett, M.D., Carroll Sinclair, M.D.



DEPARTMENT OF ORAL SURGERY

Front row, l. to r.: Martin H. Rodney, William L. Alexander, George Taylor, Bernard H. Christmas, Irving Hawkins, Jr. Back row: Robert M. Phillips, Curtis N. Adams, Baisel J. Weaver, Bruce H. Alleyne, Bernard N. Christmas.





Student Nurses Recruitment Booth at Open Air Neighborhood Fair, 1965.

deficit of \$20,000, however, community enthusiasm for the new facility and idea remained high, and the hospital, through the efforts of Dr. Finney, Mr. Carey, Mr. Riggs and others, was able to raise \$300,000 and retire this deficit.

During this same period the hospital lost three of its most valuable workers—Judge John C. Rose, Mr. C. C. Fitzgerald and Dr. William T. Carr. Mr. Cross, the business manager, was made Superintendent. Mr. John R. Carey was appointed chairman of the advisory board and Mr. J. L. Preston Linberry was appointed president of the board of trustees.

Satisfactory reports had been received from the medical advisory board and consultant staff on the progress made in the training program for nurses and doctors. Sixteen Negro physicians with years of experience in private practice were appointed to the visiting courtesy staff with privileges to treat private patients in the hospital. On February 1, 1931, 13 Negro physicians had completed the first year on the out-patient department staff and were appointed to the visiting staff of the hospital with privileges to treat private patients in the hospital. Responsibility for ward supervision in medicine and surgery was to be delegated to members of this group for unit periods of time. At that time there were nine Negro physicians assigned to the out-patient department. One junior consultant surgeon, Dr. Robert L. Jackson, who had completed five years in the hospital as a resident in surgery, two of which were spent after

the reorganization, had gone into private practice in Baltimore and had been given full operative privileges in the Hospital. The house staff was composed of one senior resident, three residents (one each in medicine, surgery and obstetrics) and seven interns.

Early in 1935, Dr. Robert T. Miller, head of the surgical department, and Dr. Lomas met with the administrative committee. They stated that they felt that the time had arrived when a sufficient number of physicians had been trained upon whom more responsibility for medical administration could be placed. The medical staff executive committee was formed. It consisted of six Negro physicians with Dr. Robert L. Jackson as chief of staff. This group assumed the responsibility of the professional management of the hospital under the guidance of the medical advisory board and consultant staff.

The uniqueness and success of this social experiment, as it was called by some, with the two races working together to develop and maintain a hospital of high standards for the service of Negro physicians and their patients, attracted the attention of doctors, humanitarians and health service officials all over the country. Such great philanthropists as the Rosenwalds and the Rockefellers used it as a model for similar hospitals in other cities of America that had large Negro populations. Officials and representatives of many organizations came to Baltimore to observe and learn the Provident method and carried it back



**HENRY J. WHITE**  
Present Administrator



**DORIS L. REESE, R.N.**  
Director of Nursing Service

and applied it at their own institutions. Many members of the present medical staff acquired their intern or residency training at Provident Hospital. The medical staff became completely self-governing, selecting its own officers and chiefs of services, who were board-certified or eligible. The hospital is approved by the American Medical Association for the training of six interns in a general rotating internship. The hospital is approved for a two-year residency in pediatrics (one year of which must be through an affiliation with the Department of Pediatrics of University of Maryland Hospital), a three year program in general surgery and a one year residency in anatomic pathology.

The hospital has unilaterally established unapproved residencies in medicine and obstetrics and gynecology. This is a unique situation in medical education in American hospitals. The Board of Trustees authorized this type of program for the purpose of attracting additional house staff to assist in caring for the unusually large proportion of service patients served by the hospital. The significant role that the hospital has played traditionally in the area of medical education is reflected in the number of young men and women who have passed through its training program and make up the membership of the hospital's Former House Officers Association. The Association's annual two-day scientific and social convention has been well attended by old and young alumni from far and near.

In 1895, while still in the Orchid Street building, The Training School for Nurses was founded

by Dr. William T. Carr, Jr. In 1896, Lena V. Ashton, a graduate of Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing of Washington, D.C. was appointed director of nurses. The Provident Hospital Training School of Nursing became the eighth school for nurses in the state of Maryland.

After two years of study and practice, the students received their diplomas. The program was extended to three years in 1921.

The course of instruction is continually revised in keeping with current medical and nursing trends. On completion of the three year program, a diploma is awarded and graduates are eligible to take the state board examinations for licensure to practice as registered nurses.

In 1960, the Helene Fuld Health Foundation granted full tuition scholarships to all students admitted to school that year and each year thereafter. The late president of the Foundation, Dr. Leonard Felix Fuld, a health educator, worked closely with the students in developing and maintaining positive health attitudes and practices. In acknowledgment of Dr. Fuld's contribution, the board of trustees changed the name of the school to the Helene Fuld School of Nursing of Provident Hospital, Inc. in January 1963.

Today, the school is accredited by the State Board of Nursing Examiners and the State Board of Education. It has been accredited by the National League for Nursing.

Through the depression and war years, Provident Hospital continued to make an outstanding contribution to the health needs of the city, state and nation. As one of the smaller hospitals in



**SOL J. PURDUE**  
President, Board of Trustees

Baltimore (less than 150 beds), it was one of only five Negro hospitals in the United States in which a Negro could qualify as a specialist. It was the only place in the state of Maryland, except for the Hospital of the University of Maryland, where a young Negro woman might obtain training to qualify her as a registered nurse—the only place where she could obtain that training from and among her own people. The institution was much more than a local medical facility. Locally it served a population of about a quarter of a million people; but the interns and registered nurses it sent out played an important part in the medical service of many millions of people. Doctors and nurses who received all or part of their training at Provident can be found throughout the country and world.

In the late 40's it was evident that the physical facilities of the Hospital were again in need of expansion and improvement. The Board of Trustees set once more to the task of fund-raising, this time \$300,000. Once again, tremendous community effort and support were rewarded with success. The year was 1951. These funds made possible the construction of an additional four rooms, housing three patients each, for

a total of 12 beds, the installation of a new elevator, a new fire-resistant stairway, a sprinkler system, a new laundry, and other renovations that would again give the hospital some relief in its need for a larger and adequate facility.

These renovations were as short-lived and temporary as any of those in the Hospital's long past history of updating an old, worn-out building. The physical, administrative, financial, and staffing crises of the next decade and the creditable manner in which the Provident Hospital organization handled them served, more than anything else, to convince the private citizens, the state and city officials, and the medical community of Maryland, that there was still a need for an organization like the Provident Hospital and that that organization's most urgent need was a new physical plant. Several studies and surveys of the hospital situation in the state of Maryland have been presented. In 1960 the Governor's Commission on the Provident Hospital concluded that there was a real need for the hospital, that the present facility should be replaced and that public funds would be required to finance the new hospital. A voter referendum granted \$2.4 million dollars from state sources to be matched by \$2.4 million dollars from city sources for construction of a new Provident Hospital. Hill-Burton Funds have been secured. In a fund-raising project sponsored by the Provident Hospital organization for construction of the new hospital, the Negro citizens of the area, once again demonstrated their faith in the Provident organization by over-whelmingly subscribing their amount of the fund's stated goal.

A 22½ acre site has been purchased and cleared. A hospital consultant firm and architects, working with the development committees of the board of trustees and the hospital's medical staff, have presented a program of development with plans and a scale model of the new building. Ground-breaking for the 280 bed hospital took place in the spring of 1967.

#### **PRESENT STAFF OF PROVIDENT HOSPITAL, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

*CLAUDE D. HILL, President*

*Department of Medicine.* Roland T. Smoot, Chief. Attending: James D. Carr, Louis Harmon, Garfield Kingston, Lucius Leeper, Addison Pope, Elijah Saunders, Donald Stewart. Associate: Richard B. Hahn, Howard

Moses. Courtesy: Frederick Peck, Charles Venter.

*Department of Surgery.* Emerson C. Walden, Chief. Attending: William Birt, Ernest Brown, Feodor Caguin, Earl C. Clay, Odom C. Coker, Bernard Harris, Sr., Bernard Harris, Jr., I. Bradshaw Higgins, Edward E. Holt, Robert L. Jackson, Turgot Jeudy, Harold R.



Johnson, Thomas C. Jones, Wayland E. Jones, Bernard Kapiloff, Marcus Moore, G. Franklin Phillips, Archie Robinson, William Russell, Royston B. Scott, Nathaniel Sharp, Henry C. Welcome, Elroy Young. Associate: Louis Goodman. Consulting: Richard Montgomery.

*Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.* Claude D. Hill, Chief. Attending: Lionel A. Desbordes, Evan A. Gilkes, William Hall, N. Alan Harris, Benigno Lazaro, Herbert Moseley, Eugenie E. Phillips, Louis Randall, N. Louise Young.

*Department of Pediatrics.* Eric L. White, Chief. Attending: Charles R. Campbell, Shirley R. Clinton, James F. Cooper, Talmadge Pinkney, Oakley H. Saunders, Blake, Zollicoffer.

*Department of General Practice.* H. Garland Chissell, Jr., Chief. Attending: Frederick Adams, Maurice L. Adams, Gilbert L. Banfield, Simon H. Carter, John T.

Chissell, Charles R. Davidson, Jesse T. Holmes, John H. Holmes, III, Donald Hughes, Joshua R. Mitchell, Eugene H. Owens, Theodore Patterson, George H. Pendleton, Uthman Ray, Jr. Ralph Reckling, E. Walter Sherbington, Percival Smith, Hollis Seunarine, Frank Washington, Jr., Maybelle Weaver. Courtesy: C. Dudley Lee, William Watts.

*Department of Anesthesia.* Gilbert L. Banfield, Chief.

*Department of Radiology.* Thomas W. Harris, Chief.

*Department of Pathology.* Hsiang L. Tseng, Chief.

*Department of Oral Surgery.* Bruce H. Alleyne, Chief.

Attending: Curtis N. Adams, Russell Carrington, Bernard H. Christmas, Bernard N. Christmas, Irving Hawkins, Jr., Robert M. Phillips, Martin Rodney, George Taylor, Charles E. Watts, Jesse B. Weaver. Associate: Donald Lurie.

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#### PROVIDENT ALCOHOLIC DETOXIFICATION UNIT

On April 15, 1967, Provident Hospital opened the alcoholic detoxification unit in the State of Maryland. The five bed facility is under the direction of Dr. Addison W. Pope, psychiatrist, and Dr. Charles W. Venter, internist.